



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# The John Merck Fund and Second Nature to Expand Climate Leadership in New England

BOSTON, MA- (Jan. 25, 2016) Second Nature, a Boston-based nonprofit working to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future through leadership networks in higher education, is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from The John Merck Fund. The generous funding will go towards expanding climate leadership in New England and helping the region become a model for climate action nationwide.

Second Nature's signature program, the Climate Leadership Commitments, is based on the premise that bold commitments to climate action and resilience by higher education leaders yield positive changes at their institutions, and beyond. Second Nature will activate New England schools within its Climate Leadership Network to serve as an example for the rest of the country in a variety of ways, including:

- Building engagement and knowledge at New England signatories of the Climate Leadership Commitments.
- Improving organizational responsiveness to the professional support needs of New England signatories through conference sessions and workshops.
- Synthesizing learning and performance data from the New England region to use in replicating success in other regions of the United States.

"We're extremely grateful for this funding from the John Merck fund," said Second Nature president, Tim Carter. "The support for deep engagement with New England signatories will not only improve the region's capacity to reduce carbon emissions and increase resilience, but will provide a model for how we can be responsive to regional needs across the rest of the Climate Leadership Network."

A post-graduate fellow will be hired to provide deep-dive analysis, support, and coordination for the new Climate Commitment signatories in the New England region, highlighting these schools as case studies across the national Network.

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### **About Second Nature**

Second Nature works to proactively build a sustainable and positive global future through initiating bold commitments, scaling successful actions, and accelerating innovative solutions among leadership networks in higher education. Learn more at: [secondnature.org](http://secondnature.org).

### **About The John Merck Fund**

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, The John Merck Fund was established in 1970 by the late Serena Merck and is now in its third generation of family leadership. Starting in 2012, The John Merck Fund will spend all of its assets over the next ten years to spur progress in clean energy, environmental health, development of a New England regional food system, and treatment of developmental disabilities. The John Merck Fund will award its last grants in 2021 and close its doors in 2022. Learn more at: <http://www.jmfund.org/>

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